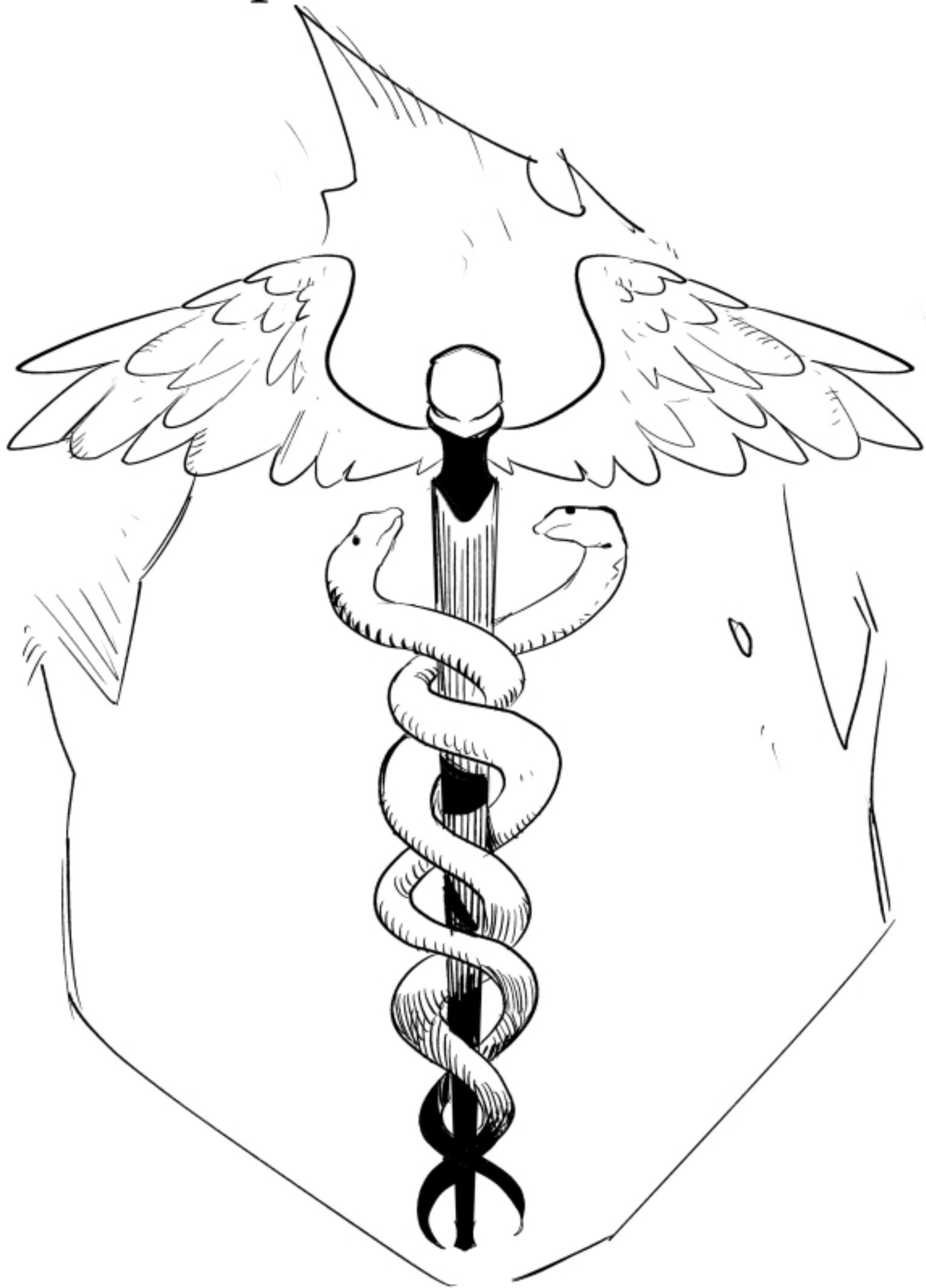


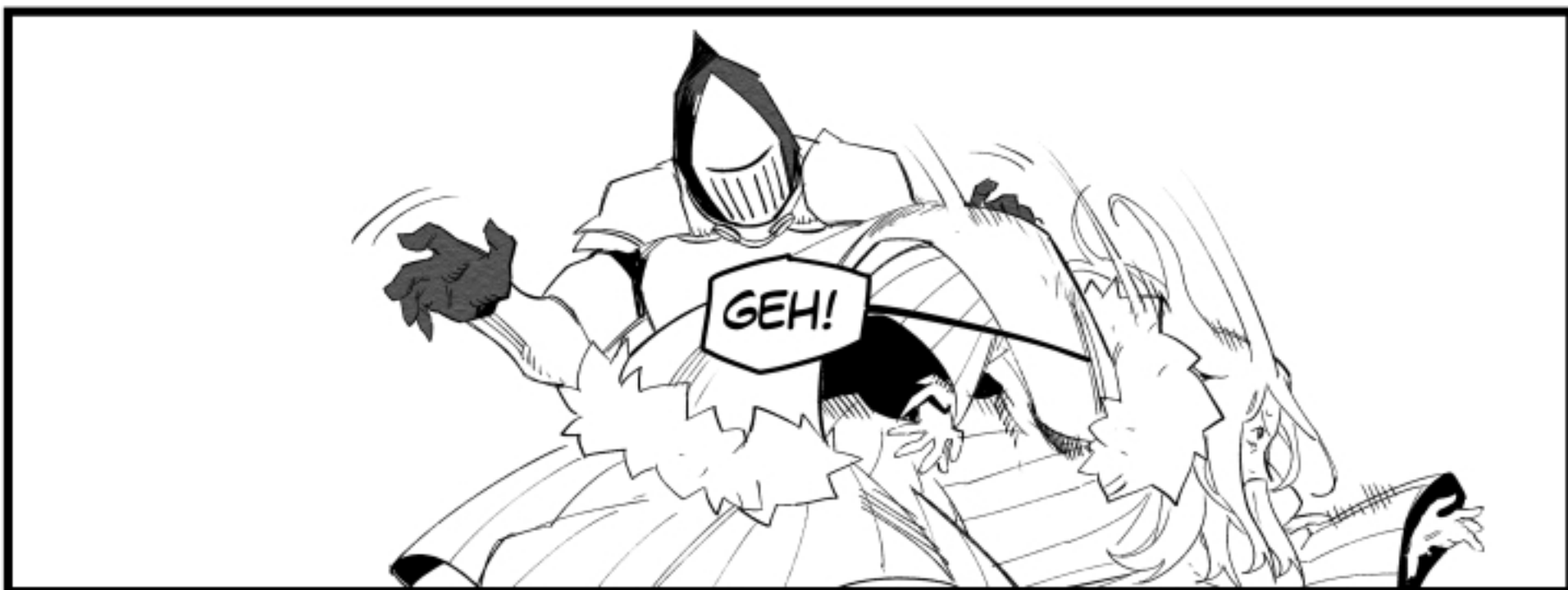
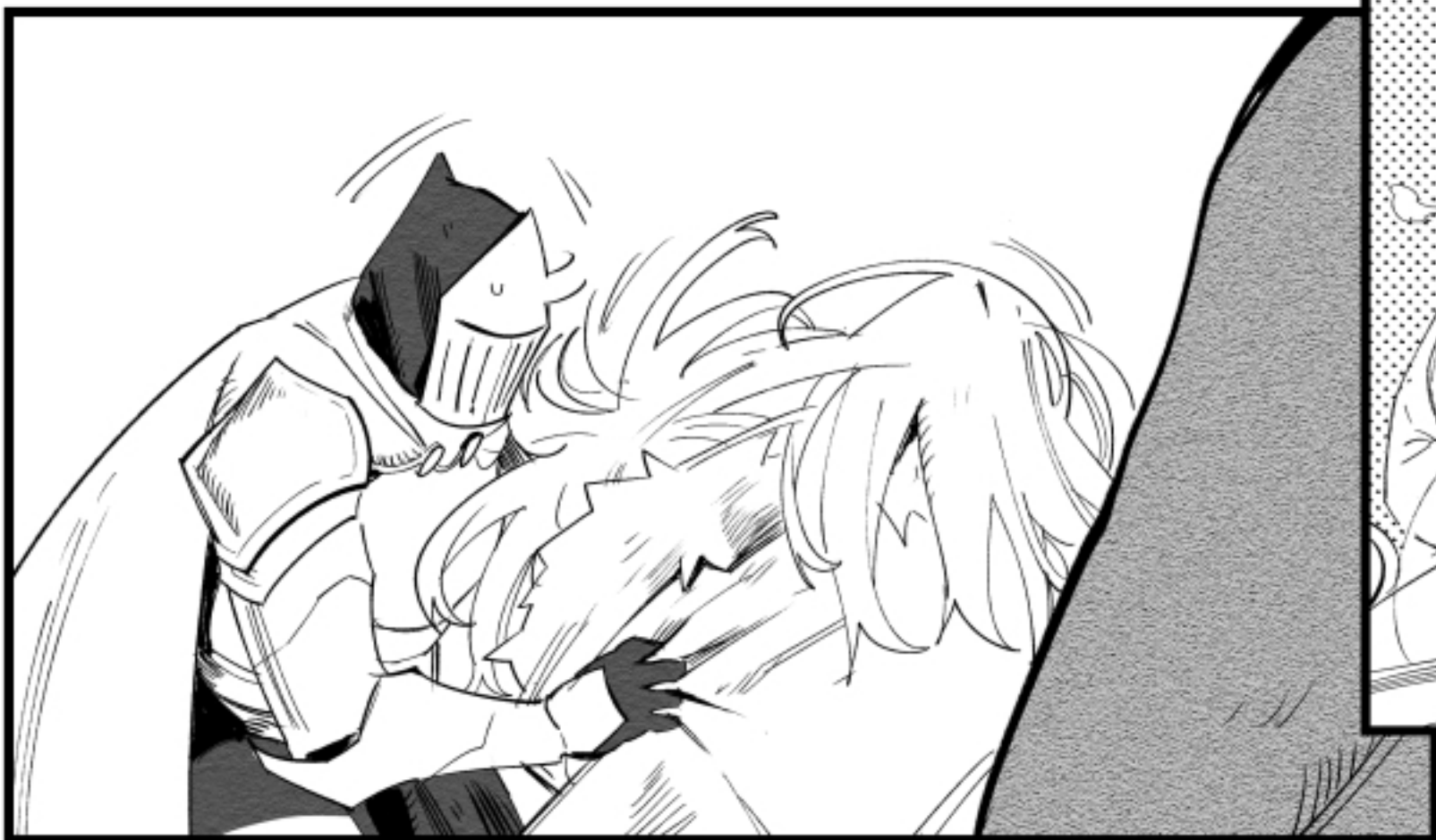
BOND BY FIRE

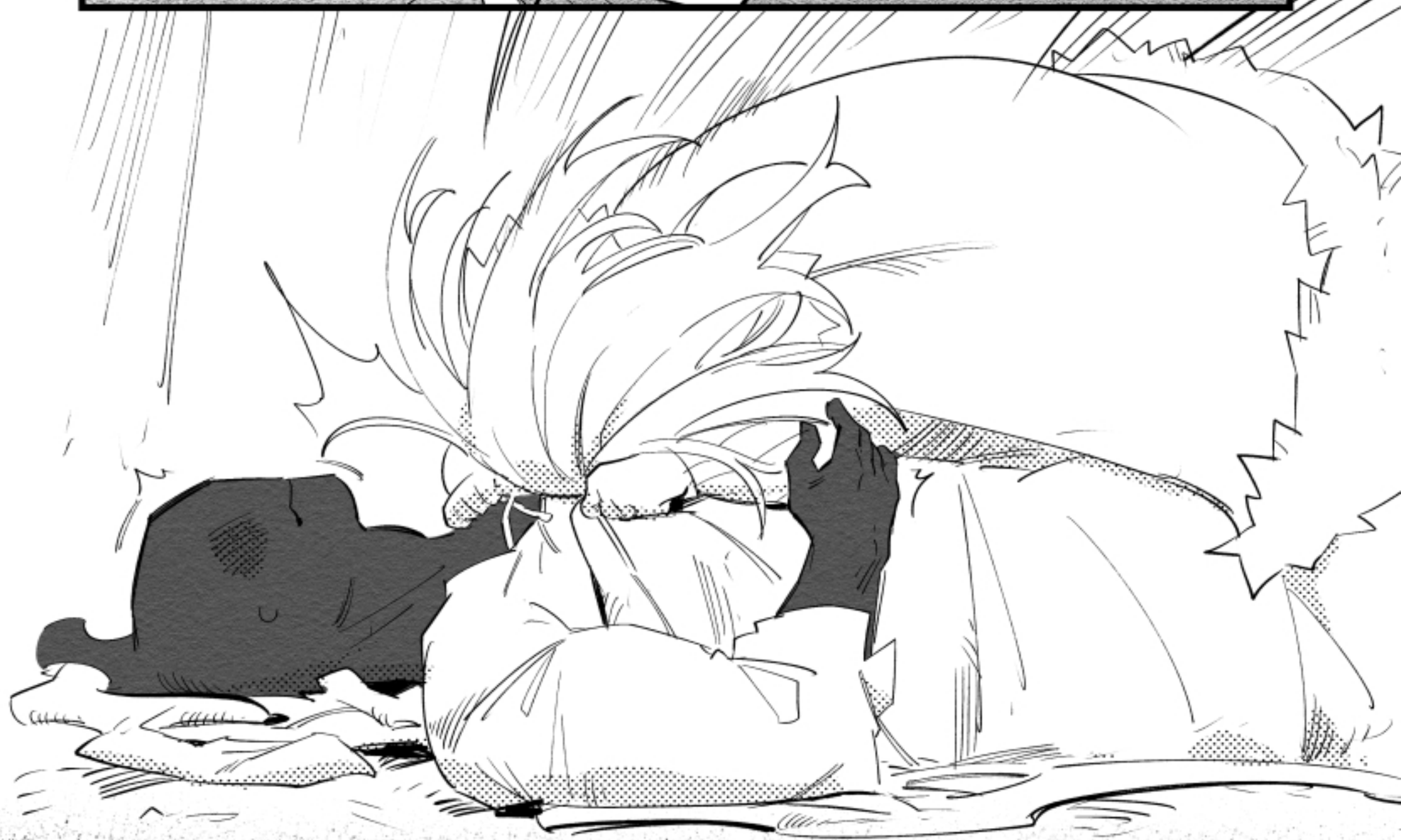
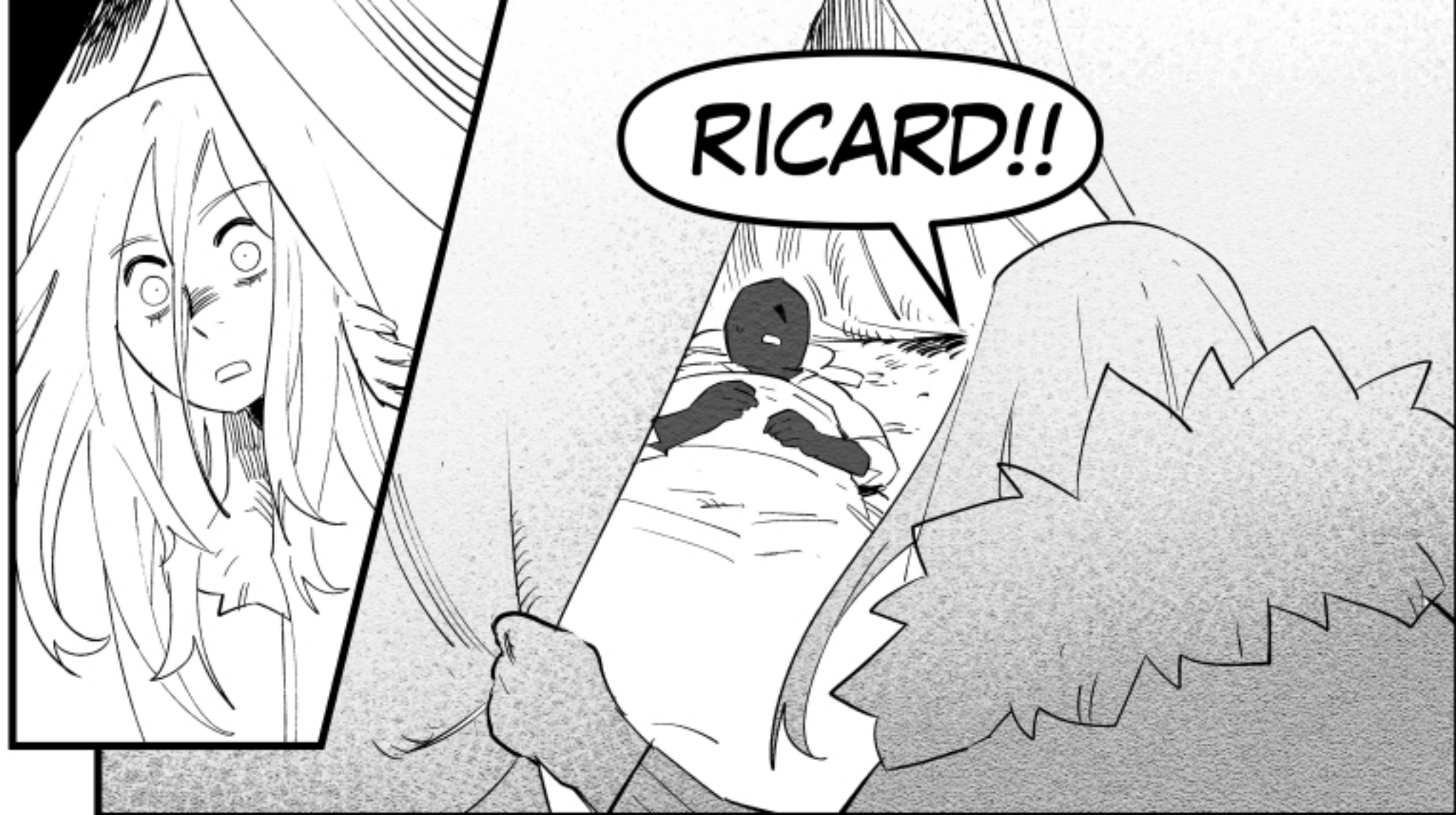
Chapter 16: In sickness

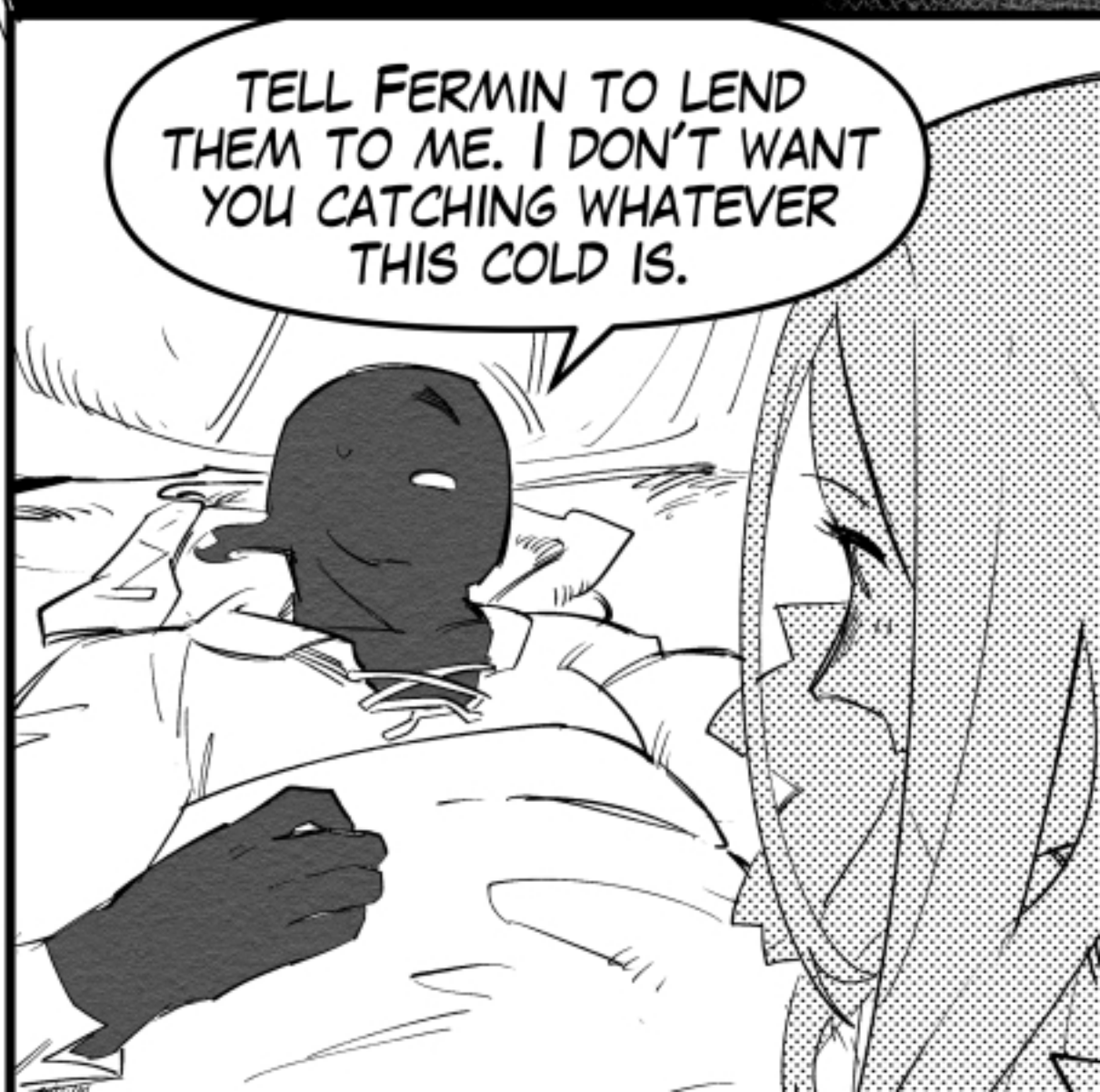


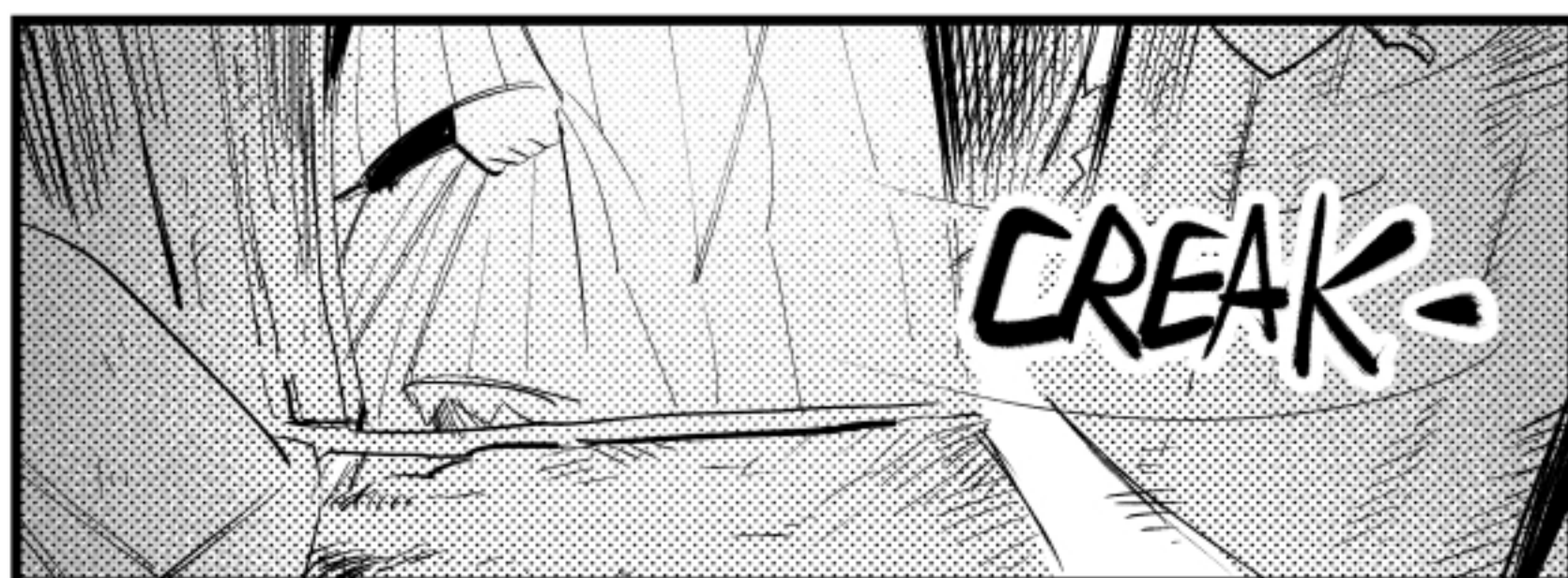
Caterina P Droguett













WASHCLOTHES... WASHCLOTHES...
ANYTHING I CAN USE AS ONE??

WHAT A PROBLEM. A STORM
IS COMING, AND I WANT TO
GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT STARTS



HE BETTER GET
WELL SOON.



HE IS NOT LOOKING
ANY GOOD, MOTHER.
HE HAS A FEVER.

WE WILL HAVE TO
POSTPONE THAT FOR
TOMORROW AT LEAST

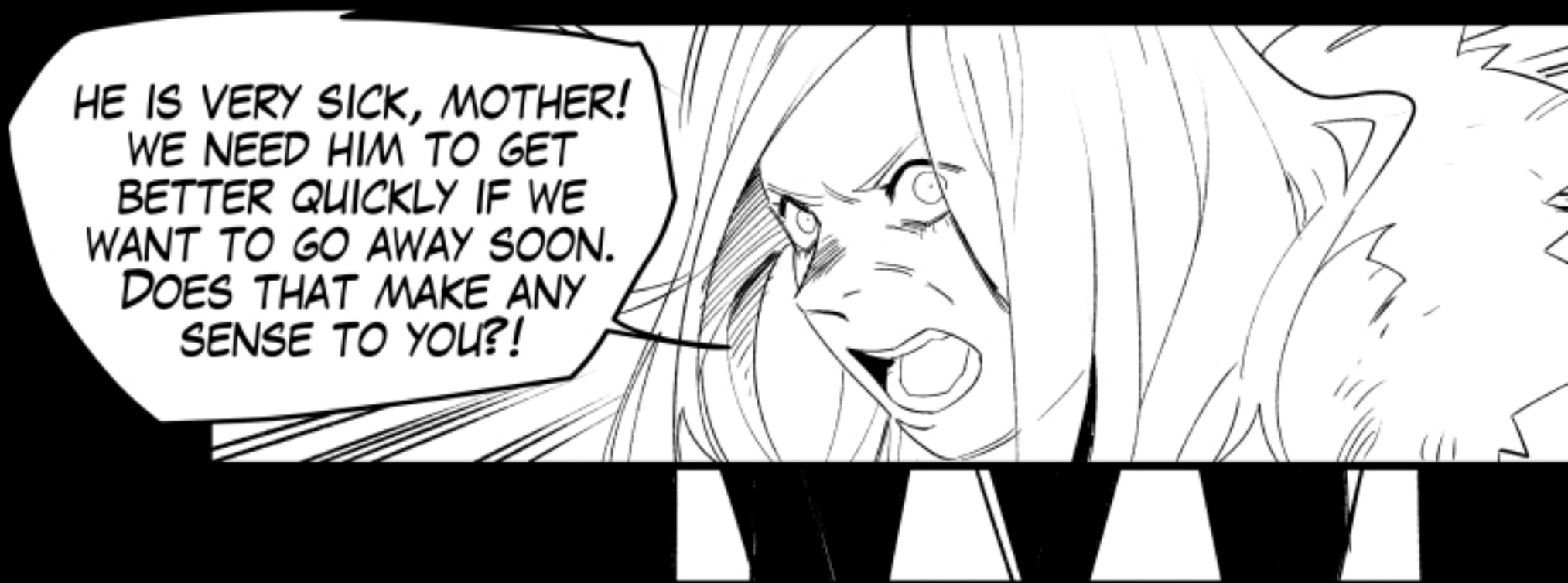


IF IT RAINS, HIS TENT WILL GET
WET AND HE WILL CONTINUE
BEING SICK. NO DIFFERENCE!

NOT IF I LET HIM
SLEEP IN MY BED HERE. I'LL
SLEEP OUTSIDE.

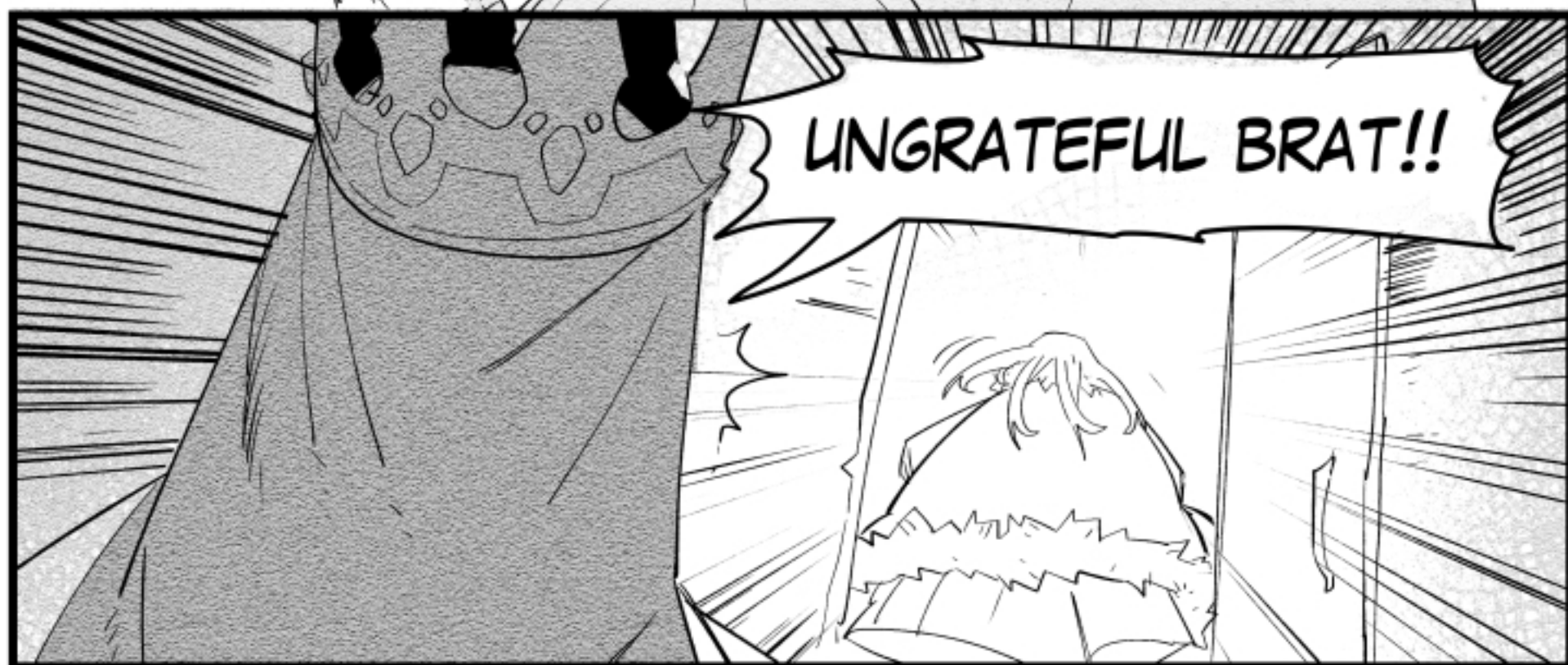
DO YOU HAVE
ANYTHING I CAN USE
AS A WASHCLOTH!?

**NOT A
CHANCE!!**



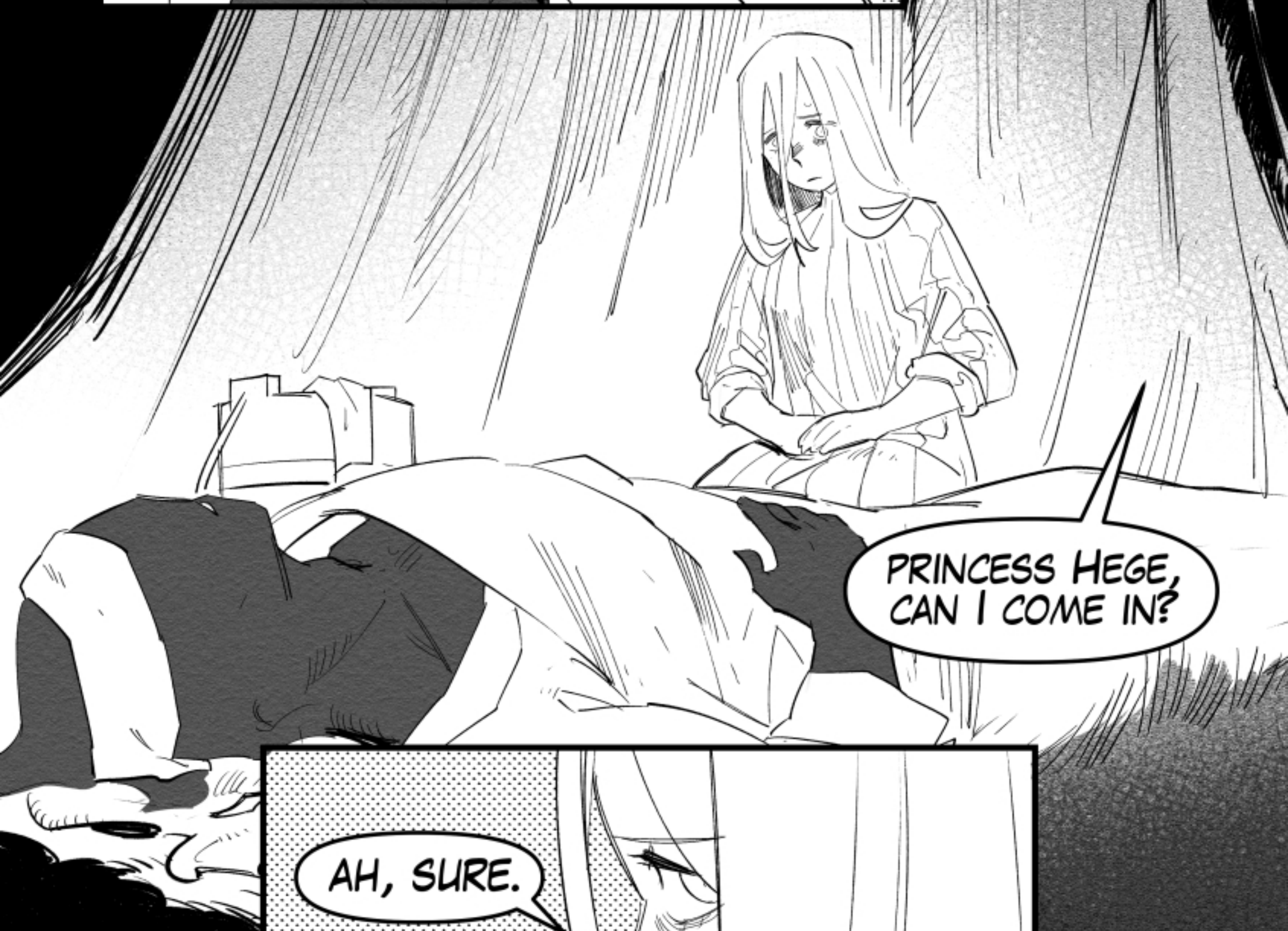


HERE. TELL HIM
TO HURRY UP.



UNGRATEFUL BRAT!!





AH, SLURE.



ANY IMPROVEMENTS?

I DON'T KNOW...
AT LEAST HE
DOESN'T HAVE
CHILLS LIKE
BEFORE. HE'S
ALSO STILL
CONSCIOUS.

THAT MEANS
THE FEVER IS
NOT THAT
STRONG.



HAVING A FEVER IS
QUITE DANGEROUS FOR
AN ASH MAN.



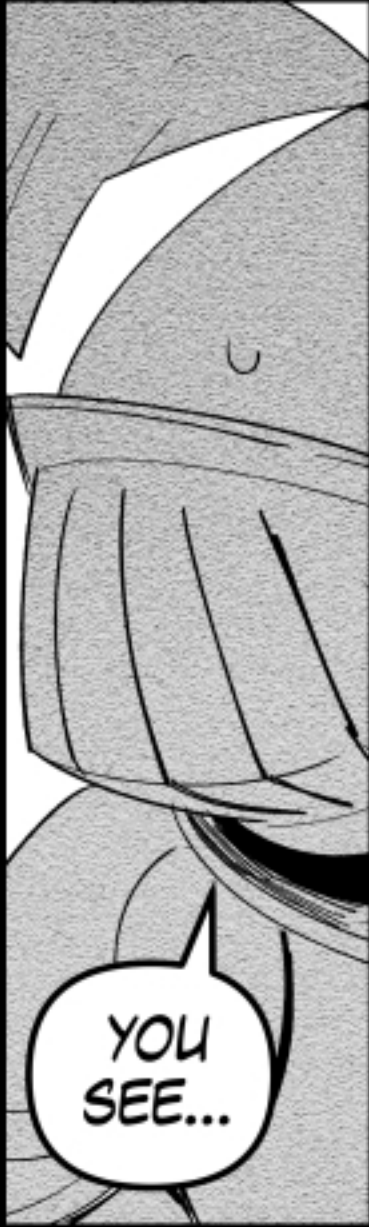
W-WHY?



YOU KNOW US ASH MEN TAKE
MOST OF OUR VITAL WARMTH
FROM OUTSIDE, BUT AS WE
HAVE SYSTEMS DERIVED FROM
THE HUMAN BEING...

OUR REACTION TO A FEVER
IS JUST LIKE YOURS.

THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS
THAT OUR BODY EXPELS OUR VERY
NEEDED HEAT, AND SO...

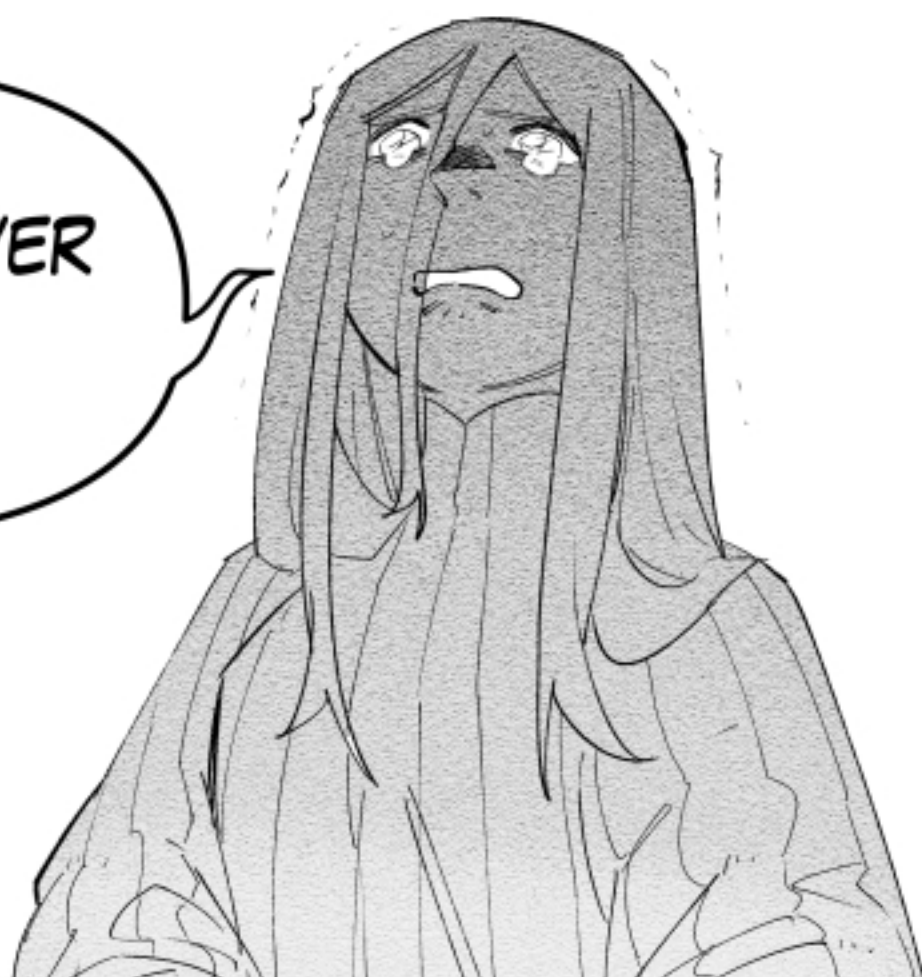


YOU
SEE...

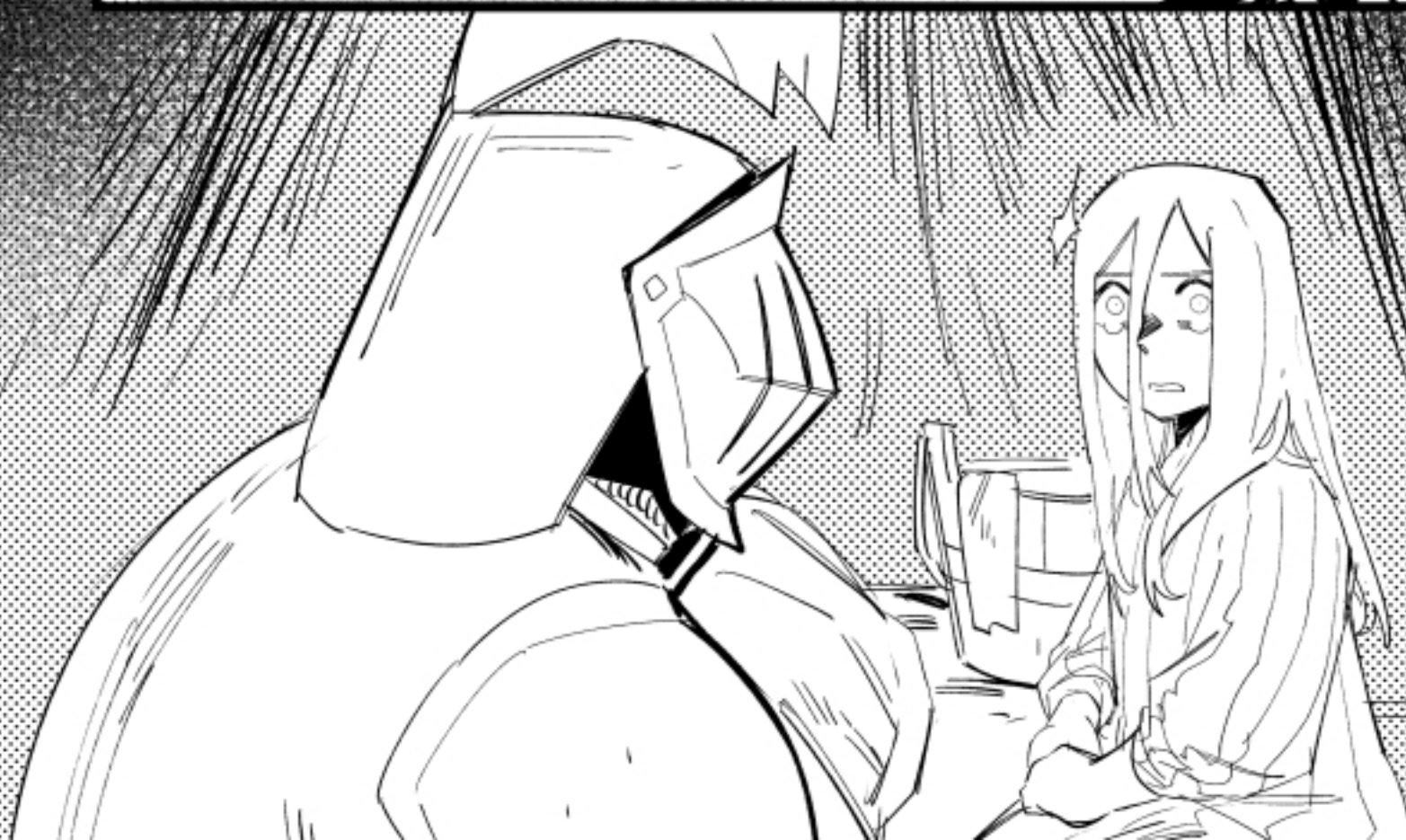


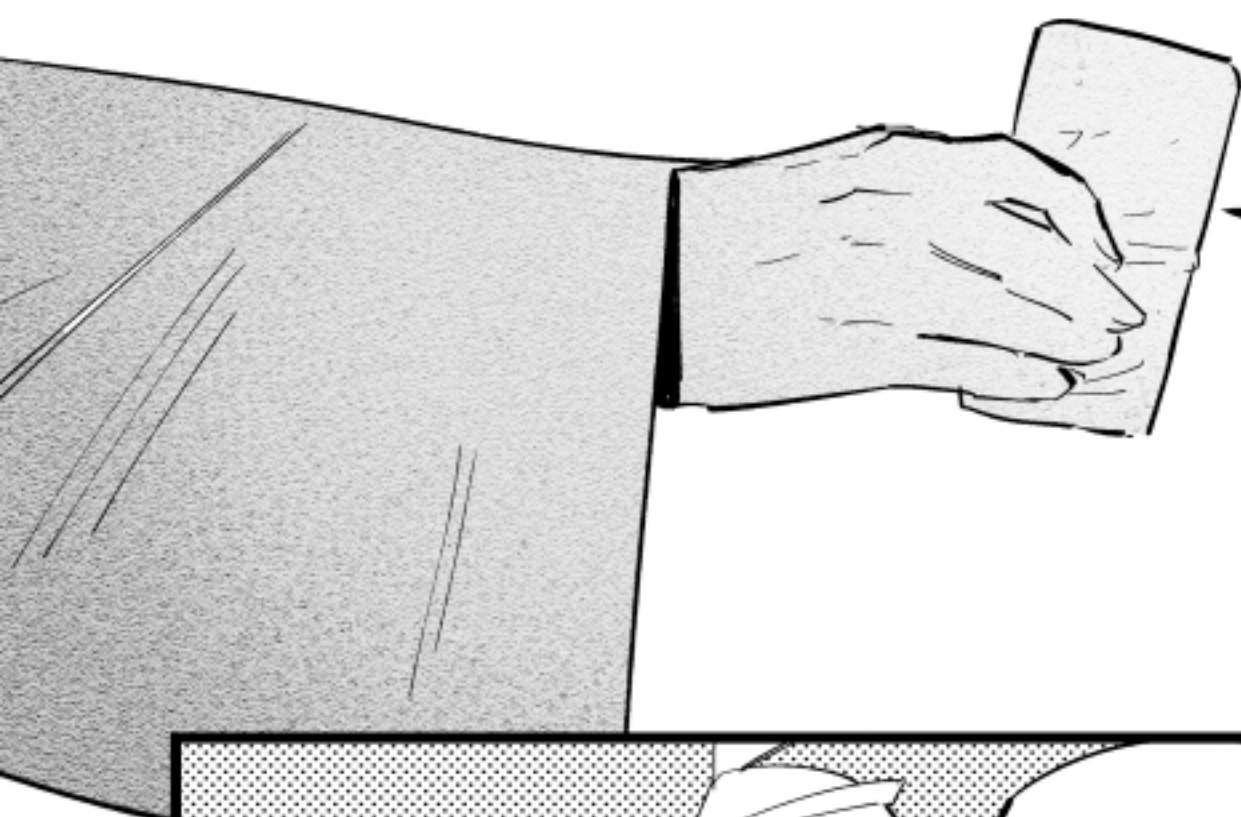


I'VE JUST NEVER
SEEN HIM
LIKE THIS...



HEGE





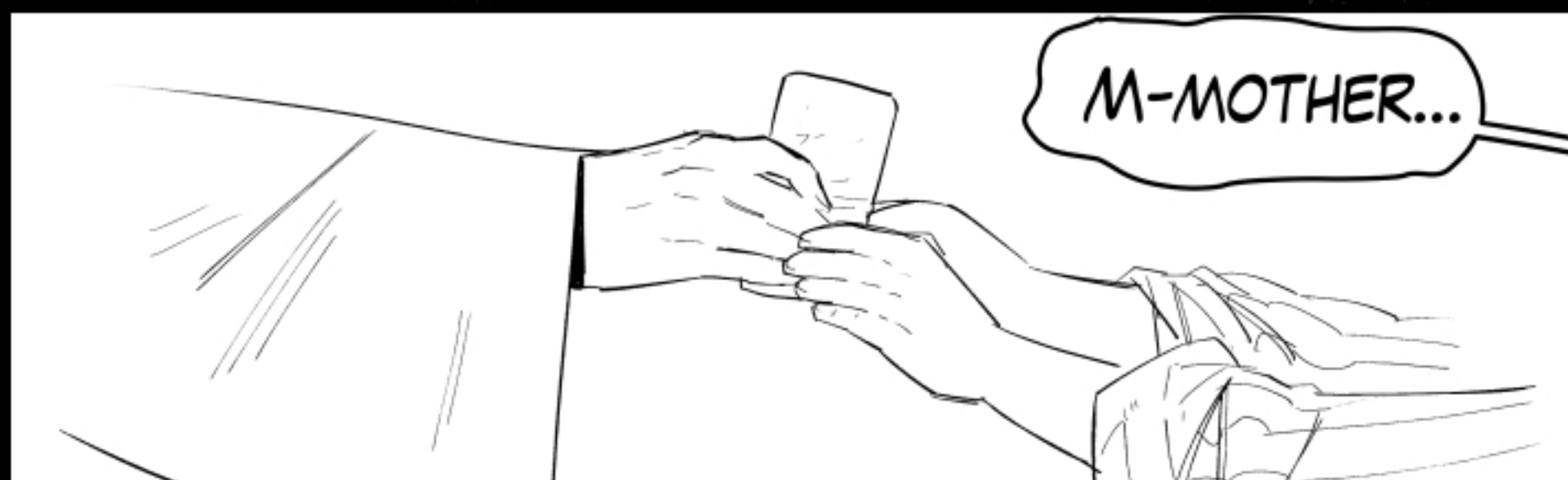
TAKE THIS. IT'S A
SPECIAL HERB
BEVERAGE I MADE...



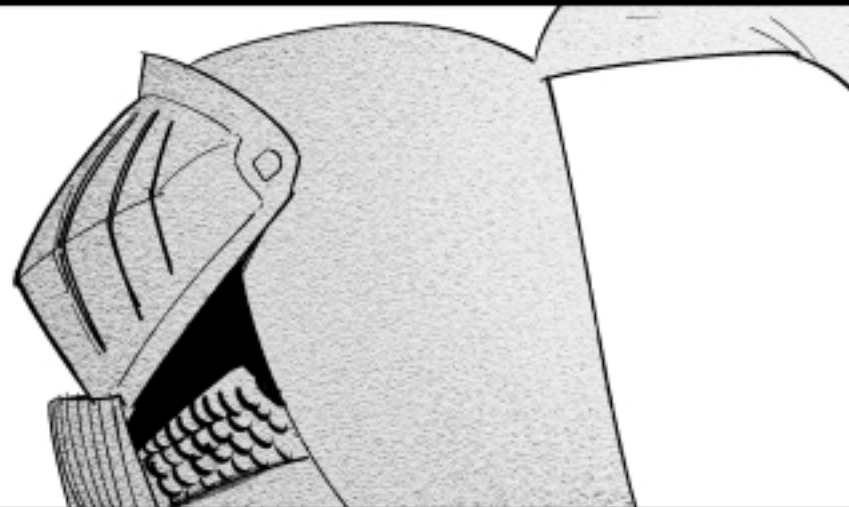
IT
HELPS WITH
THE FEVER.







YOU KNOW... PRINCESS,
RICARD WAS FEELING A
LITTLE SAD LATELY



APPARENTLY YOU TWO HAD
AN ARGUMENT AND...

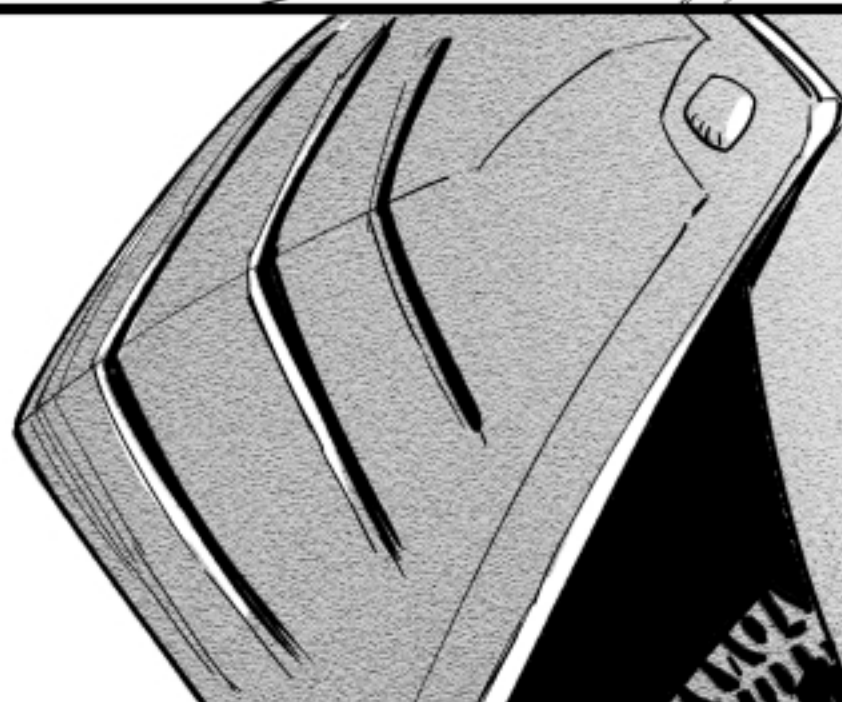
W-WHAT?
WHY-

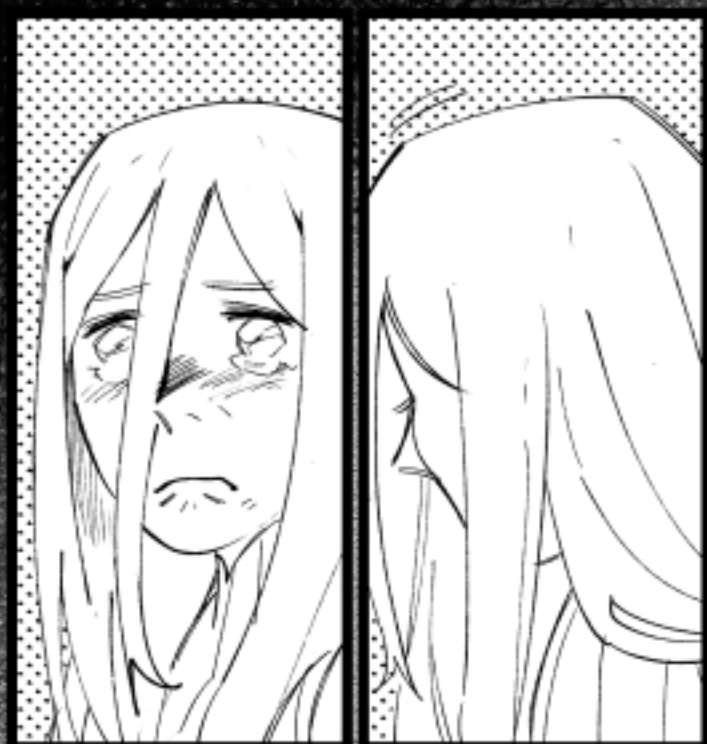


ANYWAY, I JUST WANT
TO LET YOU KNOW
THAT HE IS VERY
FOND OF YOU



PLEASE TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HIM,
ALRIGHT?





OF
COURSE.

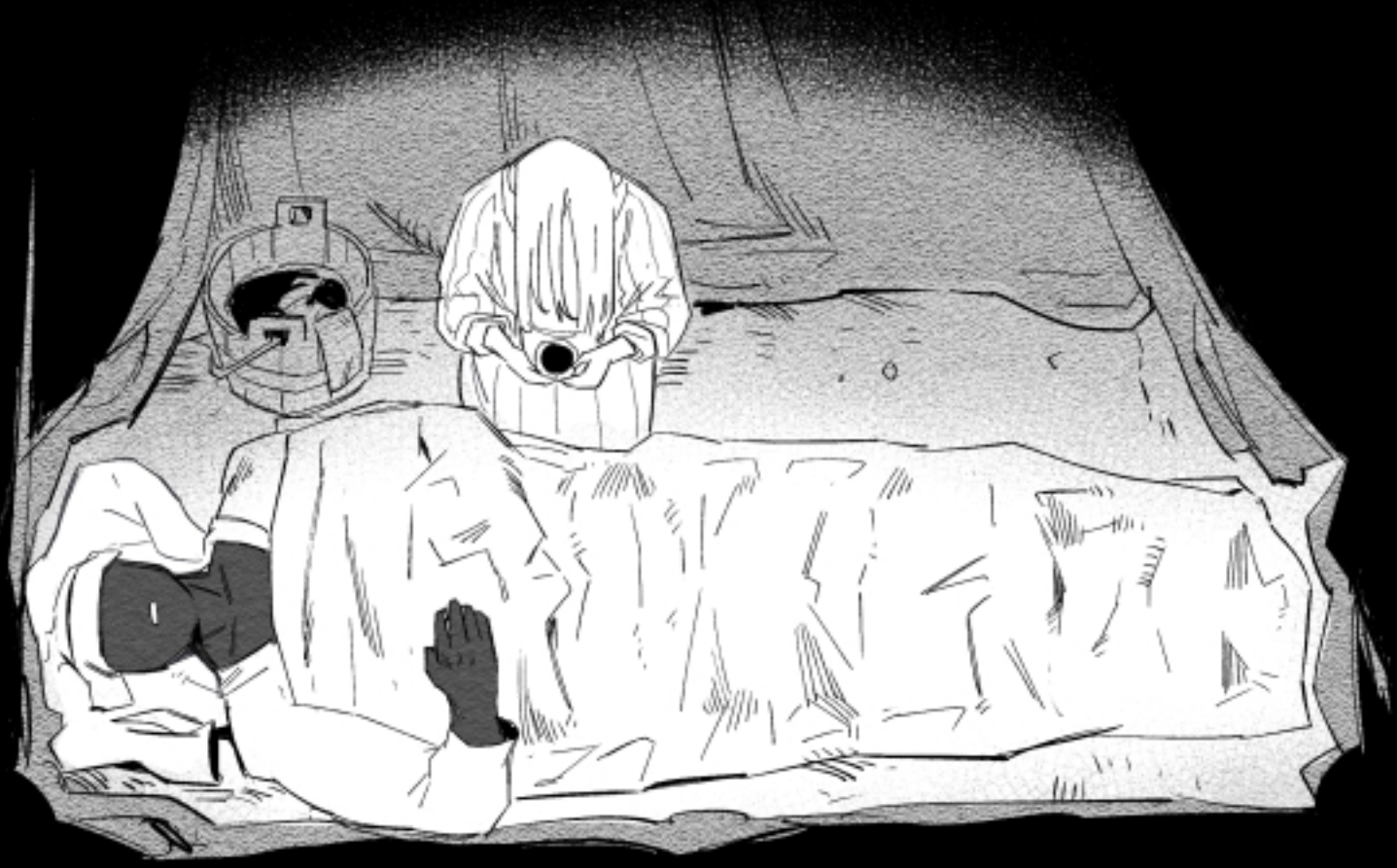
I'LL DO
ALL I CAN
FOR HIM TO
GET BETTER



GOOD LUCK, PRINCESS.
CALL ME IF YOU NEED HELP
WITH ANYTHING.

THANK YOU,
ERLANTZ.

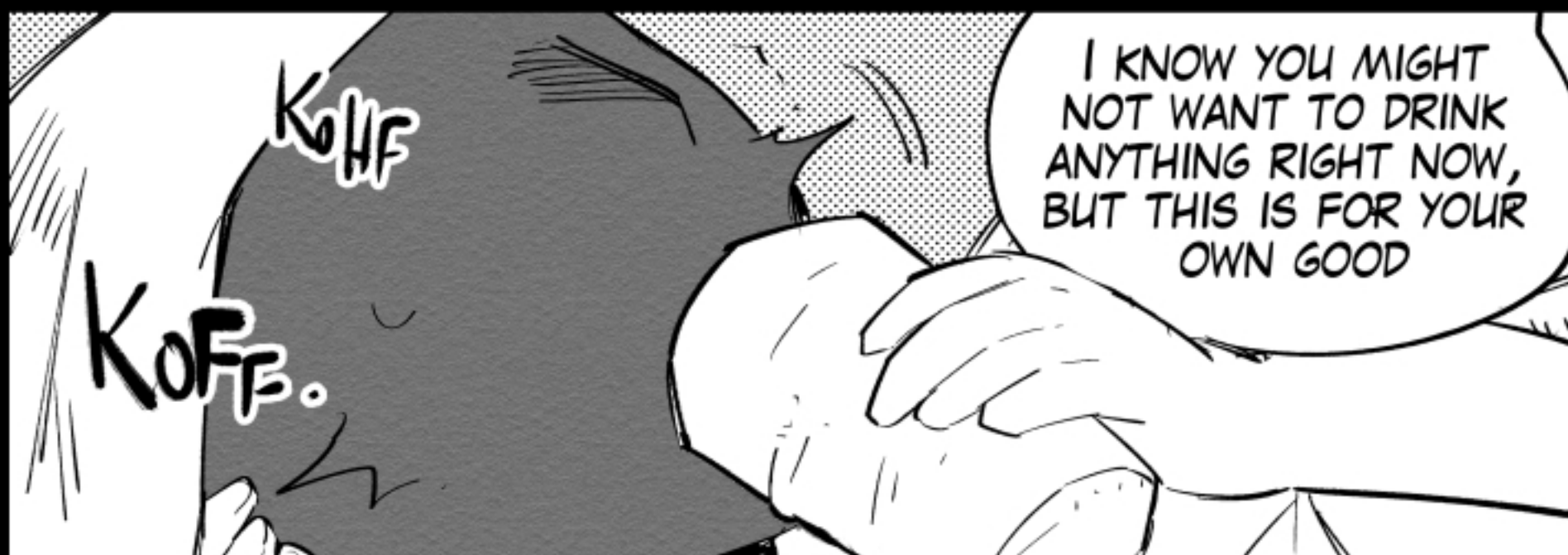




RICARD



I NEED YOU TO DRINK
SOME OF THIS. IT WILL
MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.



I KNOW YOU MIGHT
NOT WANT TO DRINK
ANYTHING RIGHT NOW,
BUT THIS IS FOR YOUR
OWN GOOD



YOU'RE VERY
DEAR TO ME TOO,
RICARD



TOOM

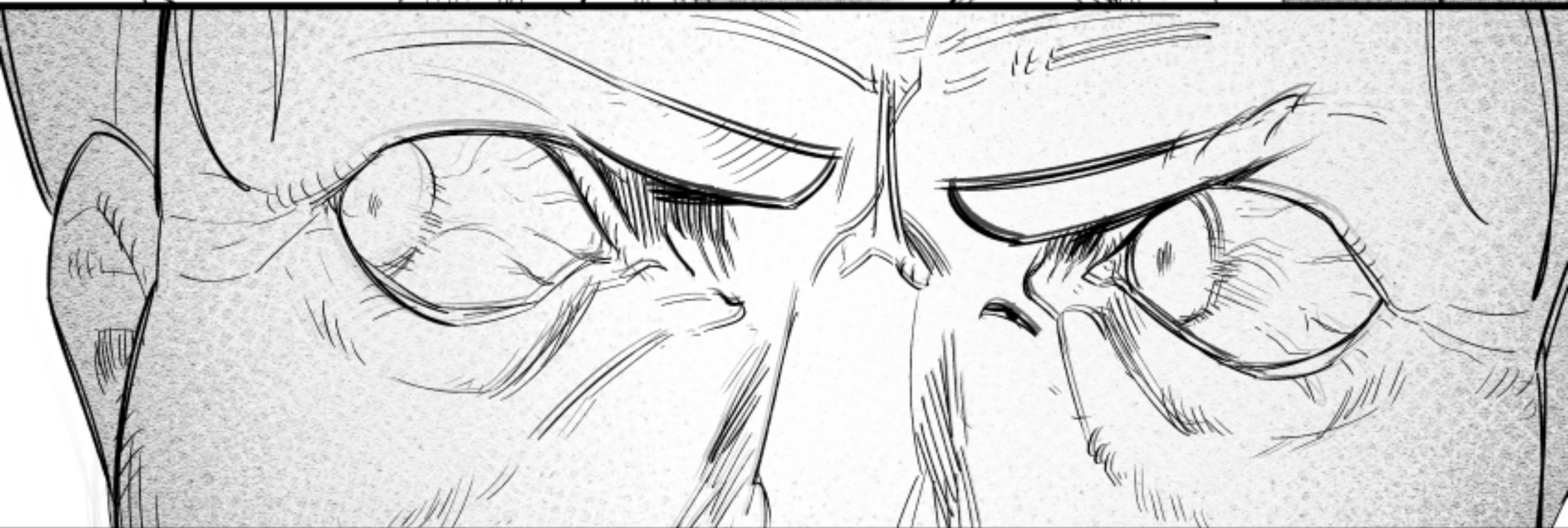
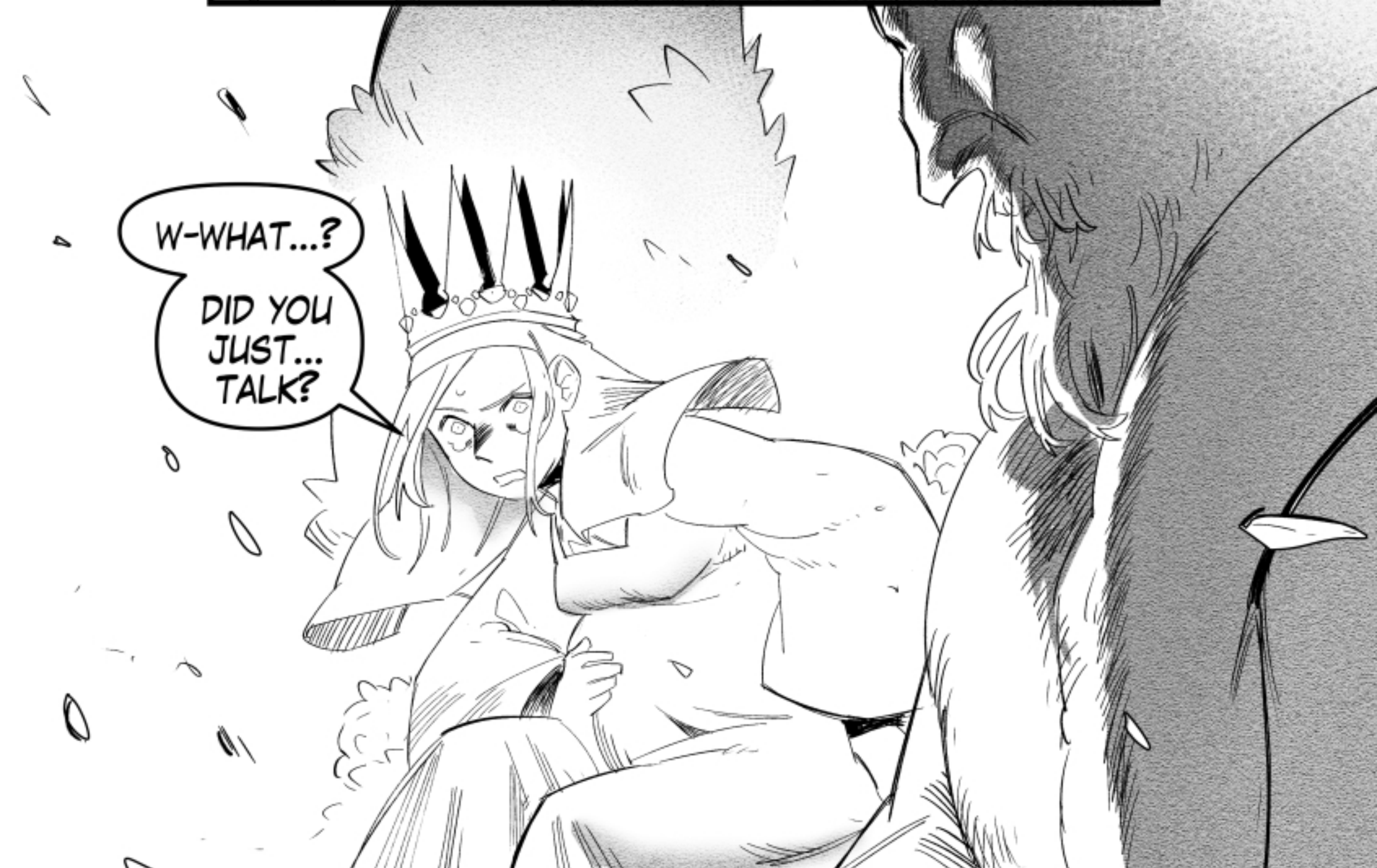
KA-





W-WHAT...?

DID YOU
JUST...
TALK?

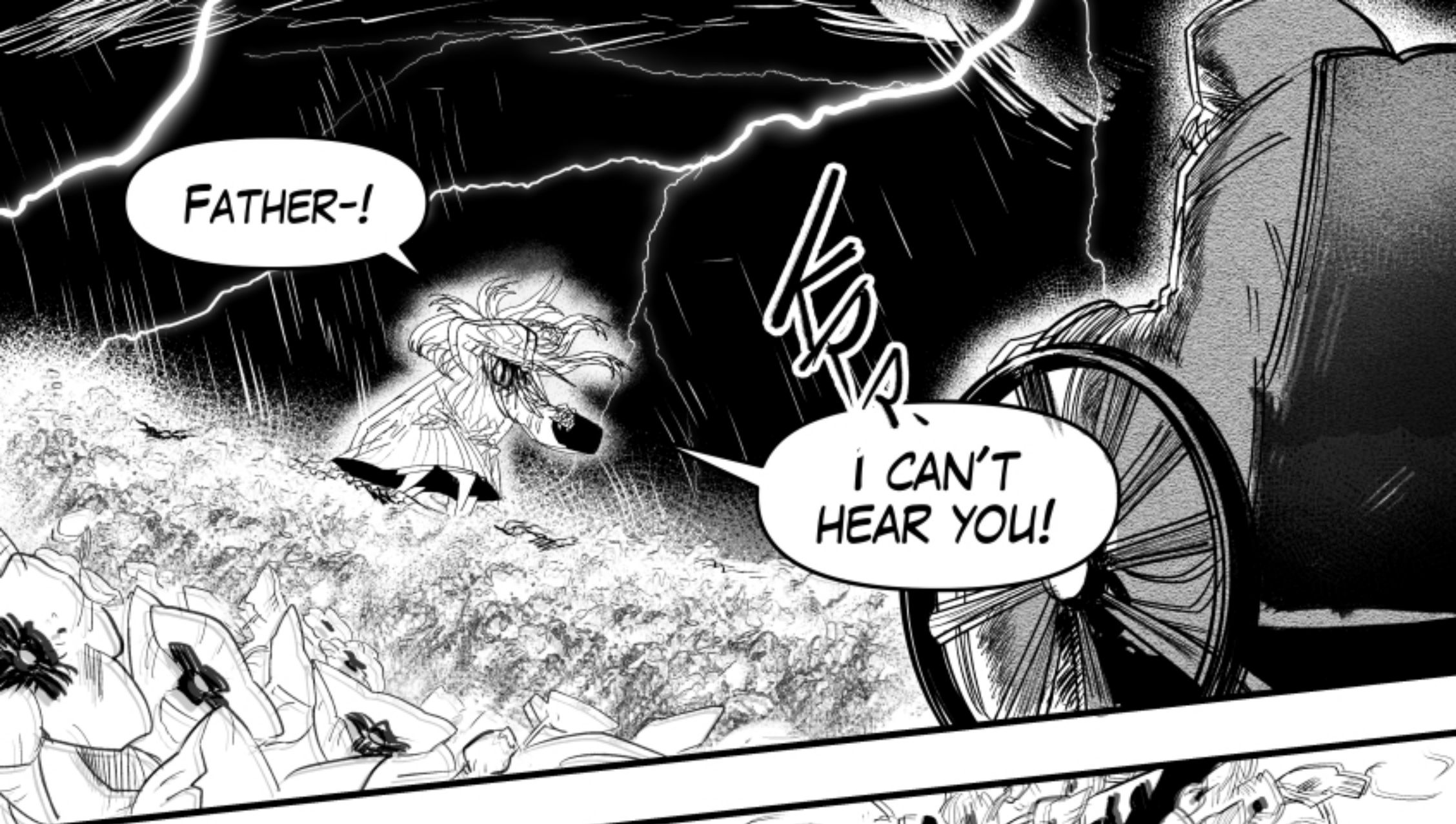


KA TOOM-









FATHER-!

I CAN'T
HEAR YOU!



TERRRRR

RR



CRACK!

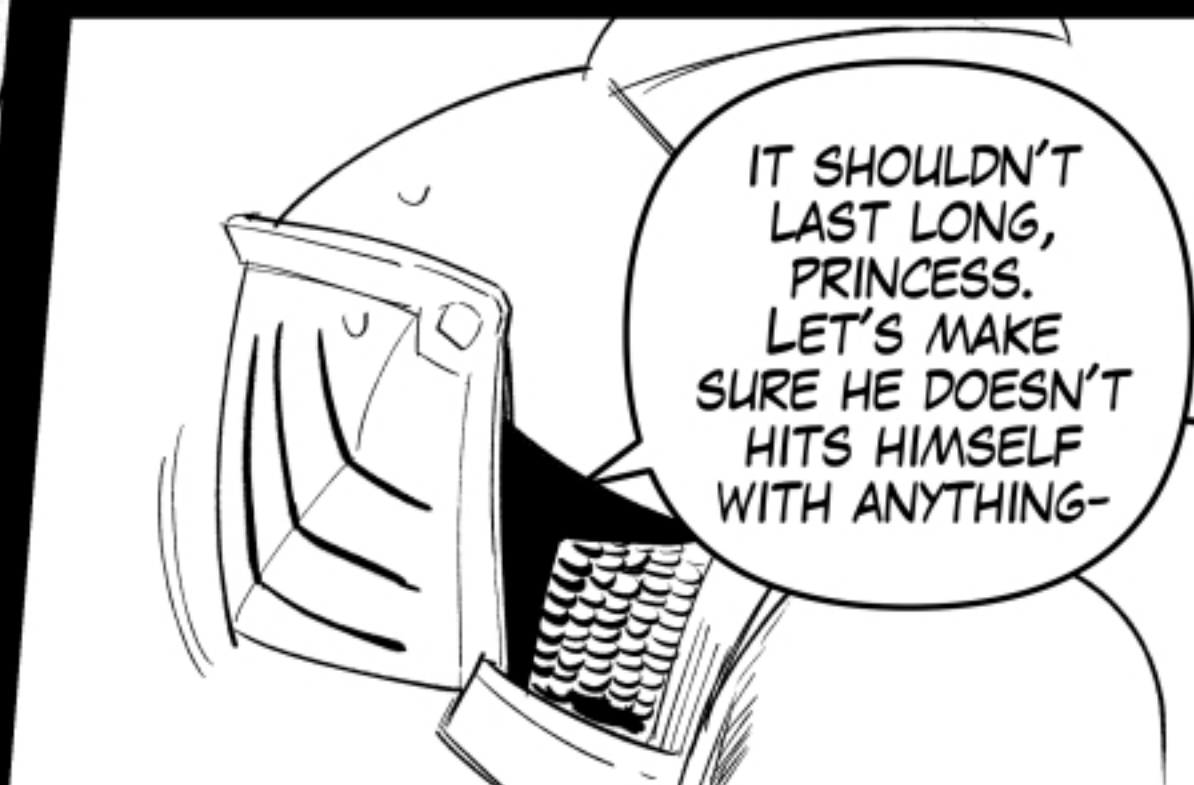


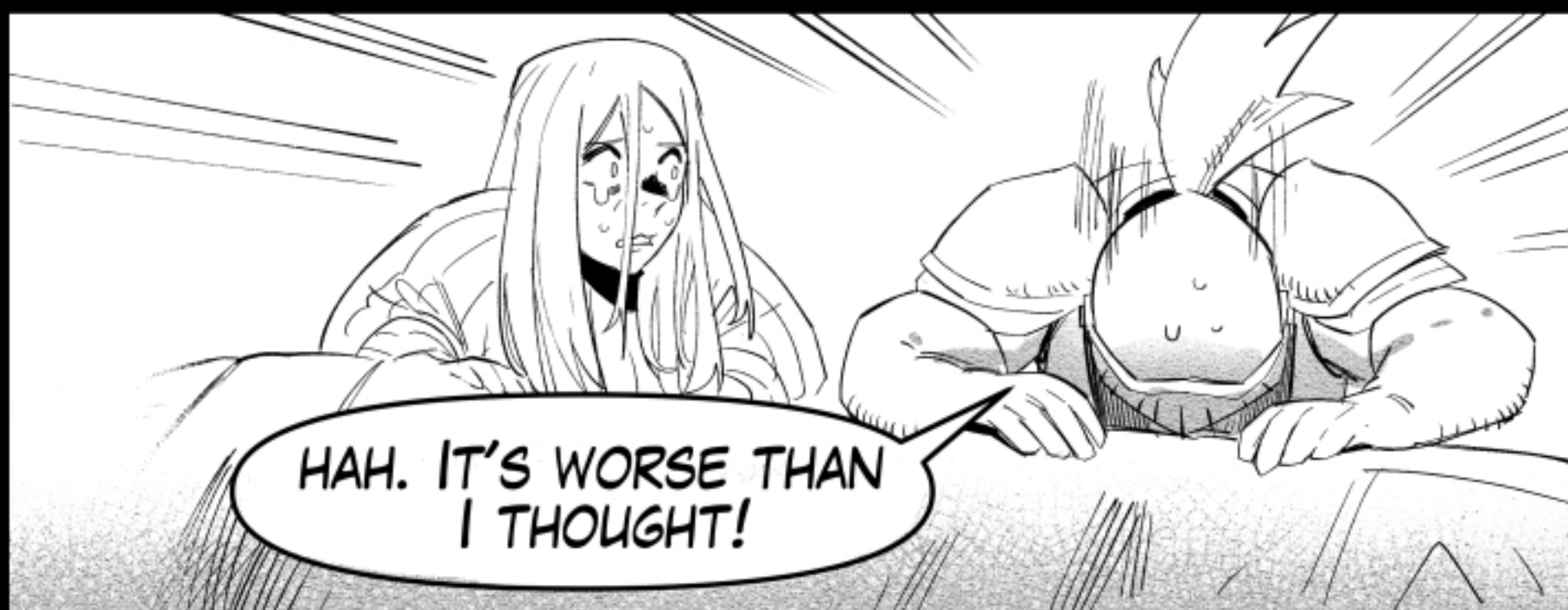
GAH!

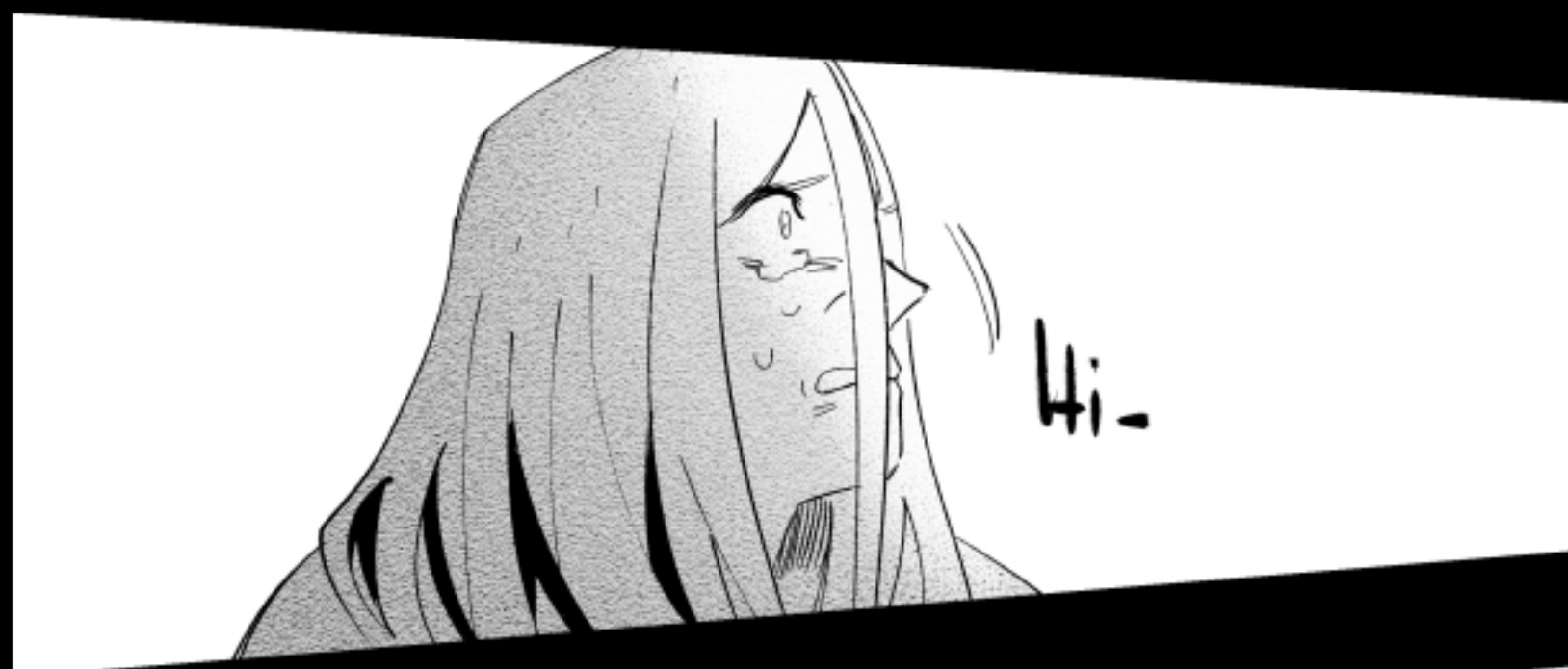
TERRRRR

TRRAA











HE CAN'T
EVEN ANSWER...



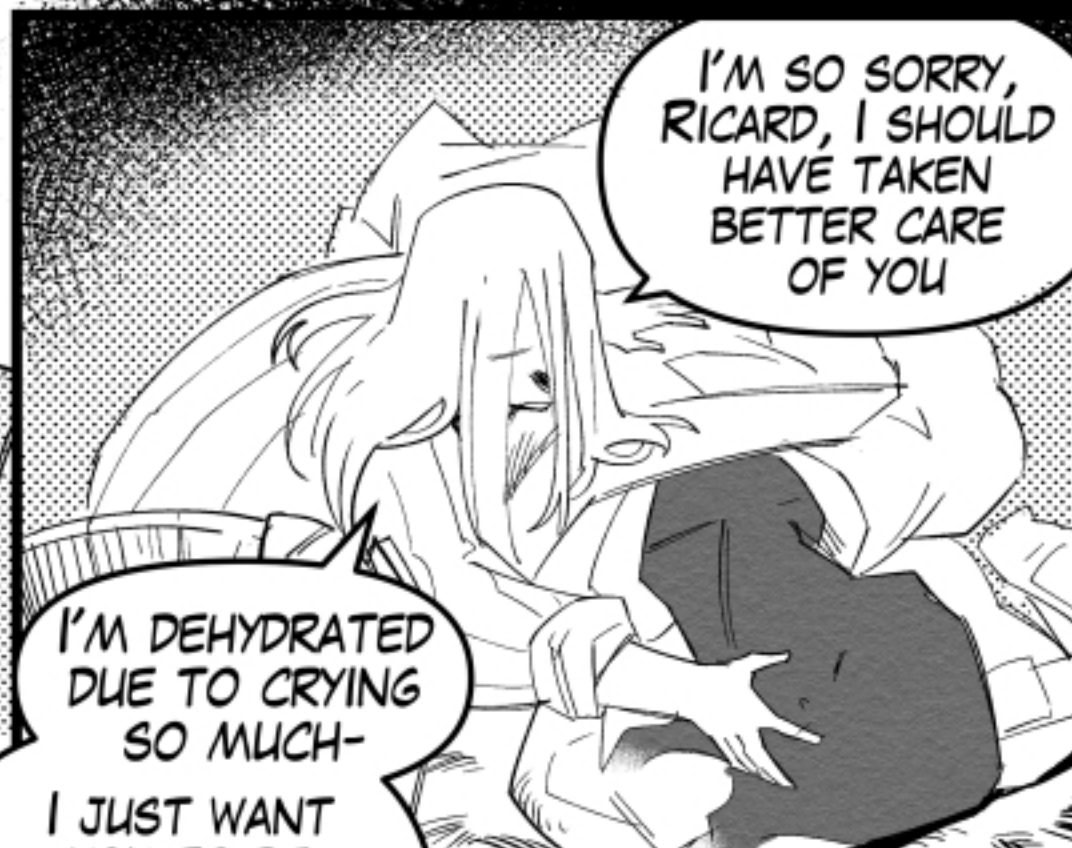
THIS IS SO WRONG.
ARE COLDS THIS DANGEROUS
TO ASH MEN? HOW IS IT
POSSIBLE?



WITH THAT
HERBAL BEVERAGE
AND EVERYTHING...

I'M DEHYDRATED
DUE TO CRYING
SO MUCH-
I JUST WANT
YOU TO BE
BETTER, AND WE
CAN LAUGH ABOUT
THIS IN THE
FUTURE

I'M SO SORRY,
RICARD, I SHOULD
HAVE TAKEN
BETTER CARE
OF YOU





DRINK SOME MORE OF THIS.
IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER



MAKE A LITTLE
EFFORT,
ALRIGHT?



GWAHAK!

HAKG!

KAGH!





COME ON...
IT CAN'T
TASTE THAT
BAD, RIGHT?



HAMF



I KNOW THIS TASTE...